**January Meeting**

**Friday, January 16
7:00 pm**

Annual Dinner

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA**

Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner will be served at 7:00pm. See the announcement on page 4.

Presidential QRM

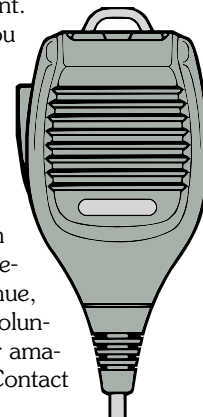
By Trevor Hall, WA6JAU

January starts out with the social event of the year. January 16 is the Annual Party where we discuss no business and we have the most time to socialize. Please contact George Roush, WB6OFH, and attend this special event. We had a great 2003 and I am looking forward to an even better 2004. As you plan recreation for 2004, contact Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, and volunteer for at least one service event. When you see how much the local community appreciates your help you will want to volunteer again. If you participate in a charity event, bring a radio. Event participants with radio communications give added service to any charity event.

We ended 2003 with a great presentation from James Jackson, WA6DDM. There were many questions from the audience and answers from Jim. 2003 was a great year with a fantastic field day barbecue and outstanding Pacificon. Thank you to all the volunteer help received from the finest amateurs in the world. Thank you Pete Slagel, K6XL, for becoming the new membership chairman and thank you Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q, for the great job you have done for the past two years. More volunteers are needed for help at the general meetings. Please increase your amateur radio enjoyment and volunteer for any service you can provide. Contact Trevor Hall, WA6JAU—your club needs you.

If you have any ideas for events never tried before, contact Bob Beard, KG6FPZ, and we will see if we can include it on our calendar.

In closing, thank you to all the committee chairs who volunteered to serve another term. Your dedication and service are greatly appreciated.

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Stolen Equipment:

A week ago my truck was broken into and an ICOM IC-T81A was stolen. The serial number is 005695. Who ever took the radio left the charger so the battery is only good for about 15 minutes. He (or she) might try to sell the radio and I was wondering if you might publish the info in your newsletter. Thanks again and 73, Lou, WA6KJA@ARRL.NET.

California Hams Respond to Quake

(January 2, 2004) ARRL

Amateur Radio operators aided the American Red Cross after a magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck California's Central Coast region Monday, December 22. Amateurs in San Luis Obispo County provided radio links between shelters and the Red Cross San Luis Obispo Chapter office. Santa Barbara Section Manager Robert Griffin, K6YR, said the San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services requested the assistance of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) teams. Griffin said San Luis Obispo ARES/RACES operators helped staff the county emergency operations center and backed-up communication for the Red Cross after cell phone service proved unreliable.

"About 24 operators were involved," Griffin said. "By 10 PM Monday night, the primary American Red Cross communication resources were again reliable, and the ARES net secured." Griffin says a few operators continued communications support at the EOC.

Griffin said the American Red Cross quickly established three shelters for quake victims—one in hard-hit Paso Robles, another in Morro Bay and a third in the southern part of the county. Hams staffed shelters to maintain contact with the Red Cross chapter office. Two people died in Paso Robles, some 25 miles from the epicenter.

Force 12 President Tom Schiller, N6BT, reports the antenna manufacturer—located in Paso Robles—suffered "minimal damage" from the December 22 quake. "Most of it was confined to the front office, with ceiling tiles falling down, books and computers being tossed around," Schiller said in an update on the company's Web site. "Those who had a view out the front glass doors watched the cars and trucks in the street leave the ground as the shock waves rolled through." He said the quake took out electric power, telephone and cell service within less than a minute, although the power returned and telephones became sporadically operative within a few hours.

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Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

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The *Carrier* is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to carrier@gardnerclan.net or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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General Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2003

The meeting was called to order by vice president Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, at 7:35 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer: Hal Johnsen, AE6FC, reported cash on hand of some \$33,000 and in addition some \$16,000 in the PACIFICON account.

Dinner/Picnic: George Roush, WB6OFH, said the annual club party is January 16, 2004, with dinner served at 7:00 p.m. sharp. The annual picnic is the third weekend in July.

PACIFICON: John Schulze, KR6CR, said the next staff meeting is January 17, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. at the Concord PD.

Field Day: John Pascale, NN6E, is chair of field day which will be held again at Bethel Island. Our June membership meeting will also be held there.

VE Exams: Nine persons took exams tonight and seven passed.

Speaker: Jim Jackson, WA6DDM, from the San Francisco radio club gave an informative and entertaining talk and PowerPoint presentation on EchoLink. He also made a couple of contacts using EchoLink.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Dick Schulze, AA6DL, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2003

The meeting of the board of directors of MDARC, held at Bakers Square Restaurant in Concord, was called to order by president Dave McIntyre, KG6ACD, at 7:30 p.m. The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Board Members Present: Dave McIntyre, Jay Caldis, KT6Y, Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, Harold Johnsen, AE6FC, Dana Jones, K6BRR, Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, and Dick Schulze, AA6DL.

Other Members and Guests: Bob Beard, KG6FPZ, Dick Brown, KT6X, Jerry Gardner, W6UV, Dave Gordon, N6SWE, Keith Lattin, N6PMF, Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q, George Roush, WB6OFH.

PACIFICON: Dick Brown said the contract with the Marriott is signed and will be returned to the Marriott provided the board approves the convention for 2004. On motion, the board authorized PACIFICON at the Marriott in 2004. The president inquired about including an item in the 2004 budget for purchase of another digital projector for use at PACIFICON. The steering committee members suggested that more analysis is needed and, should it be determined that such purchase is cost effective, the committee will make a request for specific authority during the year. Dick Brown reported that the net profit from PACIFICON 2003 was approximately \$10,450. He proposes to turn over \$9400 to the club, retaining \$1000 which, added to the sums advanced to PACIFICON in the past, will give the committee \$6400 in working capital. The additional working capital is needed due to an increase in upfront expenses.

Budget: Trevor will email a copy of the 2003 budget to the board members so that they will be familiar with and will be able to make some comments before the January meeting when board will prepare a budget to submit to the membership at the January general meeting.

Treasurer: Hal reported there is some \$35,000 in the club accounts. In addition, there is approximately \$16,000 in the PACIFICON account. Hal also raised the issue of expenditures that exceed the budgeted amounts and said he would require approval of the board and/or the membership for payments that are over budget.

Technical Committee: Keith said that when the repeaters recently went down, there was a delay in activating them as Howard Burk was unavailable. Howard will provide the controller codes to Trevor. Keith has a bill from Northgate for \$330, up from \$270 last year. The tower climber has been contacted and he expects him to be available in 1 1/2 weeks.

Emergency Coordinator: Dana says the RACES training will be held on the
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Board Meeting Minutes

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fourth Saturday of the month commencing in January.

Annual Dinner: Eoin will provide a list of current members to George for the drawing. The board decided there will be one ticket for the drawing for each family membership.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Dick Schulze, AA6DL, Secretary

Ramblings from the Editor

By Jerry Gardner, W6UV

I'm sorry for the confusion surrounding last month's meeting date. I had three sources supplying me with the date, and one of them didn't agree with the other two, so naturally I chose the wrong sources to believe. I'll be more careful in the future.

Starting with the November issue, I'm now creating the PDF version of the *Carrier* in Acrobat v5 format. If you're using Acrobat Reader v4 or earlier, you may need to upgrade to a later version if you're having trouble viewing the file. I can't go back to an earlier PDF format because features I need are not supported.

I know you're probably tired of hearing this by now (and I'm certainly tired of writing it), but now that the holidays are over, how about sitting down and writing an article for the *Carrier*? Or if you don't feel comfortable writing an article yourself, send me links to material I can incorporate in the *Carrier*. Please be sure that any material you send is not copyrighted. So come on, get busy and start sending stuff in; every little bit helps.

California Hams Respond to Quake

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Schiller reports his own house—about a mile away—was “trashed,” although his towers and the plumbing and electrical systems survived. Standing outside while checking the house, Schiller said he noticed that there was no wildlife at all. “No birds, no deer, no dogs barking. Not even a breeze,” he said. “Thankfully, we made it through.”

ISS Gets New Ham Gear

(January 2, 2004) ARRL

Astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, fired up the new Phase 2 Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) equipment December 21 to make a number of 2-meter contacts with amateurs around the world. The Expedition 8 commander completed QSOs with amateurs in Australia, Europe and North America from 1100 to approximately 1700 UTC.

“I heard him at approximately 1100 UTC and also on the next pass,” commented Ib Christofferson, OZ1MY, on the SAREX reflector. “He had a large pileup.”

A new Kenwood TM-D700E VHF-UHF dualband transceiver was installed late last fall in the ISS Zvezda Service Module—the crew's living quarters. ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said official permission to use the new gear came December 17. The RS0ISS packet system also is back in operation.

“This equipment, including antennas, radios, hardware and software were developed and provided by a diverse set of team members located around the world,” Bauer said in a year-end

statement. “This was quite a challenge to make happen.”

Activation of the new gear means a power boost from 5 W to 25 W for the NA1SS downlink signal. It also means the ISS now has two functional ham stations. Additional Phase 2 equipment—which could go into space this month—is to include a slow-scan television (SSTV) system and a Yaesu FT-100 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver.

“I was able to hear him from as far out as 1200 miles,” reported Arthur Rowe, N1ORC, of Lawrence, Massachusetts. “I guess that the new output power was helping.”

Foale's operation was part of a special event to honor SAREX/ARISS Working Group Chairman Roy Neal, K6DUE, who died last August. Stations contacting or monitoring the ISS on voice (NA1SS) or packet (RS0ISS) through the end of 2003 are eligible for special event certificates. See “K6DUE ISS Commemorative Event Certificates” on the ARISS Web site <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> for details.

ARISS is an international educational outreach program with participation by ARRL, NASA and AMSAT.

Solar Update

(January 2, 2004) ARRL

Sunspot numbers for December 25 through 31 were 58, 65, 47, 47, 56, 15 and 25, with a mean of 44.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 139.1, 137.2, 161.5, 119, 114.5, 107.7 and 105.6, with a mean of 126.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 9, 12, 12, 6, 8 and 17, with a mean of 10.



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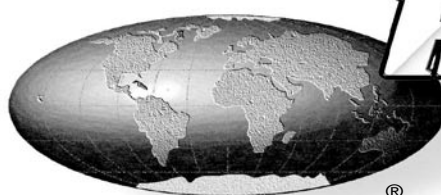
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 5	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Baker's Square Willow Pass, Concord
January 16	7:00 pm	MDARC Annual Dinner	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
January 31		February Carrier Deadline	
February 2	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Baker's Square Willow Pass, Concord

The Carrier
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MDARC Meeting: January 16